

# ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH

856 WASHINGTON STREET, BRAINTREE, MA 02184

Parish Office Phone: 781-843-1332 • Fax: 781-848-0976 • Website: [www.sfab.org](http://www.sfab.org)

Office Hours: Monday thru Friday 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM



**Pastoral Staff:** Rev. Paul Clifford, Pastor  
Rev. Donald Delay, Parochial Vicar  
Rev. Robert Milling, Senior Priest in Residence  
Mrs. Linda Muldoon, Pastoral Associate  
Rev. Mr. Joseph MacDonald, Director of Music  
Mr. Brian Cote, School Principal, 781-848-0842  
Mrs. Diane Hopkins, Religious Education, 781-848-3238  
Mrs. Ronna Petrilli, Religious Education, 781-848-3238

**Parish Office:** Mr. Rick Timmerman, Business Manager  
Miss Patty Kinnally, Office Manager

**Mass Schedule:** Saturday Evening – 4:00 PM  
Sunday – 7:00, 9:30 and 11:30 AM  
Weekday – Monday thru Friday 7:00 AM

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Saturday – 2:30 to 3:45 PM

**Sacrament of Marriage:** A minimum of ten months notice is required. Please call the Parish Office to schedule an appointment prior to booking a hall.

**Sacrament of Baptism:** First and Third Sunday of the month at 1:30 PM.  
Please call the Parish Office to register.

**Sacrament of the Sick and Communion Calls:** Please notify the Parish Office if anyone is hospitalized or unable to attend Mass because of illness.

**Community Meetings:** School Hall Alcoholics Anonymous – Friday 8:00 PM

**Food Pantry:** Thursdays – please call the Parish Office one day in advance.



## Mass Intentions

### Saturday, December 30, 2017

4:00PM James & Betty Foley Memorial

### Sunday, December 31, 2017

7:00 AM Thomas P. Quinn Month's Mind

9:30AM Estelle "Kitty" Lezynski Memorial

11:30AM Louis & Josephine Anzaldi and Ancestry Memorial

### Monday, January 1, 2018

7:00AM Special Intention

12:10 PM Richard Leland, III Anniversary

### Tuesday, January 2, 2018

7:00 AM Vincent Cioffi Month's Mind

### Wednesday, January 3, 2018

7:00 AM Philomena Morris Memorial

### Thursday, January 4, 2018

7:00 AM Peggy Mullaley Memorial

### Friday, January 5, 2018

7:00 AM Marjorie Smith Memorial

### Saturday, January 6, 2018

4:00PM James Dwyer & Susan Spillane Memorial

### Sunday, January 7, 2018

7:00 AM Michael Nee Anniversary

9:30AM Ann Palombo Memorial

11:30AM William P. Sweeney, II Memorial

Thank you for your offerings for last weekend:

**Percentage of offertory by Envelope/EFT—%**

**If you are interested in the Online Giving option to simplify your weekly contributions, please contact the parish office.**

*Offertory Information not available due to an early bulletin deadline.*

# Collection Report

Offertory Envelopes	\$
Offertory/Loose	\$
EFT Weekly Average	\$ 1,031.60
<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>\$</b>

**PLEASE REMEMBER ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH WHEN PLANNING YOUR ESTATE. Thank you!**



**"For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel."  
- Lk 2:30-32**

### Readings for the Week of December 31, 2017

- Sunday: Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3 or Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/  
Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9, [7a, 8a] or  
Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Heb 11:8, 11-12,  
17-19 or Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:22-40  
or 2:22, 39-40
- Monday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/  
Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
- Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [3cd]/  
Jn 1:19-28
- Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:29--3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6 [3cd]/  
Jn 1:29-34
- Thursday: 1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9 [3cd]/  
Jn 1:35-42
- Friday: 1 Jn 3:11-21/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5 [2a]/  
Jn 1:43-51
- Saturday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15,  
19-20 [12a]/Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38 or 3:23,  
31-34, 36, 38
- Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11,  
12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12



**Masses for the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God will be celebrated at St. Francis of Assisi at 7:00AM and 12:10PM and at St. Clare at 9:00AM.**

**Because this falls on Monday, it is NOT a Holy Day of Obligation this year.**

## THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH



From the desk of the  
Pastoral Associate  
Mrs. Linda Muldoon



The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph... Think about the last time that you took a good look at your family and thought, "We are holy" or at yourself and thought "I am holy." I have never met anyone who, when asked to describe him/herself, mentions "holy" as an

attribute. Yet—so we are. By virtue of our baptism, we are children of God and siblings of Jesus Christ; yet many of us dwell in our unworthiness and our brokenness. In the sacrament of penance, we can shed the unholy stuff we carry with us and begin anew. Every time we receive Jesus in the Eucharist we become, like Mary, the "Theotokos," the God-bearer. Caryll Houselander, a Catholic laywoman wrote, "Only Christ-bearers can restore the world to life and give humanity back the vitality of love." As we make our New Year's Re-solutions, let us remember that we are holy, and holy is his name. In 2018, let us be Christ-bearers—in our hearts, in our words, and in our actions. New Year's blessings to all, and to all a good beginning!

**December 31—Holy Family:** Today is the feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. During our New Year may our families "grow in wisdom and have the favor of God upon them." **This Christmas, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to bring Christmas to the hearts of the poor, by assisting 40+ families, providing Christmas meals and other groceries, gifts for children, and some limited assistance with specific bills. Many thanks!**



*Thank you!*

Many thanks to you, our parishioners, for your amazing generosity! Your response to the Advent Giving Tree and to our food collection; the anonymous donations of money and gift cards; and the time so graciously given by our many volunteers will guarantee a much Merrier Christmas for many families and individuals—right here in Braintree! In addition, many residents of our local care facilities received lovingly made and packaged shawls created by the women of our prayer shawl ministry.



Our bereavement group is now on winter hiatus, and we will start up again in March. Those struggling with and grieving the death of a loved one are always welcome to contact the parish for assistance by calling 781-843.1332 or sending an email to [lmuldoon@safb.org](mailto:lmuldoon@safb.org). We can offer a cup of tea, a box of tissues, a listening heart, and resources that will help along the way of your grief journey.



We are now booking Mass Intentions through September 2, 2018.



The annual **PENNIES FOR THE UNBORN** drive will be held the weekends of January 6/7 & 13/14. The Catholic Daughters of the Americas will be collecting all donations after the Masses.

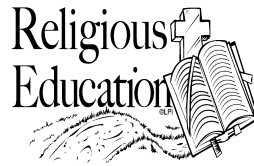


From the clergy and staffs of  
St. Francis of Assisi and St. Clare

The parish Office will be closed on  
Monday, January 1, 2018.

# Parish Info and events of note...

- **St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry...** We are open Thursdays from 10AM-12NN and 2-4PM. If you need groceries, please call on Wednesday so that we can be prepared for your visit. Referrals and limited financial assistance are available for parishioners in need. Please call the parish office for more information.
- **Prayer Shawls...** Next meets **Tuesday, January 9, 2018 at 7:00PM.** Come and join us when you can. (We suggest that you bring yarn, knitting needles, and/or crochet hooks. There is some yarn available; but, if you have your own, that would be most helpful.)
- **Our Bereavement Group ...** will start up again in March, but those grieving the death of a loved one are always welcome to contact the parish for assistance, using the above information.
- **Visits to the Sick and Homebound...** If you or someone you know cannot attend Mass due to surgery, illness or infirmity, you can request a Communion visit. Our staff and trained home visitors are available and willing to come to you. Please call the parish office for more information.
- **Parish Prayer Line...** To be placed (or to pray) on the parish prayer line, please call the parish office.
- **Military Service...** If someone you know is newly deployed and you would like their info to appear on the board, please call or email the parish office. Thank you.
- **RCIA is the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults.** It begins with a time to ask your questions and discern whether God is calling you to something more. Are you interested in becoming Catholic? Maybe you were baptized but missed the opportunity to receive your first holy communion or be confirmed. Maybe you have questions about our faith. You can reach out to a member of our staff at any time by contacting the parish office or join us for an inquiry session, soon to be scheduled. If the words above do not resonate with you, please pass them along to someone you know who may be interested. God works through us, especially when we pay attention.



Mrs. Diane Hopkins  
Mrs. Ronna Petrilli  
Phone 781.848.3238

### Religious Education classes are as scheduled:

<b>Sunday, December 31</b>	<b>10:30-11:30</b>	<b>Gr. 1-5</b>
	No classes this week.	
	<b>5:00 – 7:00</b>	<b>Gr. 10</b>
	No classes this week.	
<b>Monday, January 1, 2018</b>	<b>3:50-4:50</b>	<b>Gr. 1-5</b>
	No classes this week.	
<b>Tuesday, January 2, 2018</b>	<b>3:50-4:50</b>	<b>Gr. 1-5</b>
	No classes this week.	
	<b>6:30– 7:45</b>	<b>Gr. 6-8</b>
	No classes this week.	
<b>Thursday, January 4, 2018</b>	<b>6:30-8:00</b>	<b>Gr. 9</b>
	Classes meet this week at St. Clare.	

### CONFIRMATION NEWS:

**Confirmation I (Grade 9)** - Class on **January 4** at St. Clare.

#### Next Meetings:

**Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup>** from 6:30 to 8:00 pm at St. Clare.

**Thursday, February 1<sup>st</sup>** from 6:30 to 8:00 pm at St. Francis of Assisi. (Note change of place)

### Confirmation II (Grade 10)

Next meetings:

**Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>** from 5:00 to 7:00\* pm at **St. Clare**

**Sunday, January 21<sup>th</sup>** from 5:00 to 7:00\* pm at **St. Clare**

\*(Mass is part of our meeting time.)

Please return your Sponsor Sheets at the next meetings.



Human nature would have us write a long list of resolutions to start the New Year. It is so wonderful to reset our intentions and find solidarity in those around us who do the same. Join us in adding prayer to your resolution routine. It might be a prayer of petition or a prayer of gratitude. Maybe it's a prayer for yourself or a prayer for others.

Our young people are seeking new ways to share a prayer with each other. "Yes, there's an app for that!" God bless them all!

Enjoy the glow of new life in the new year!

***Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.***

Stay close,  
Diane Hopkins and Ronna Petrilli



**If you worship with us regularly, are here for the 1st time or are a returnee, we are so happy that you are here. If you would like to learn more about our parish family, please do not hesitate to**

**call the parish office at 781-843-1332.**



From  
Mr. Brian Cote  
Principal

**Happy New Year** - A New Year is always filled with so many new resolutions and much promise. On behalf of the administration, faculty and staff at St. Francis of Assisi School, I offer you God's blessings for the New Year – 2018. May every day bring you love, peace and joy.



It is with sincere gratitude that I thank you for supporting our school through your continued prayers and the purchasing of our Holiday Calendars during the Christmas season. With your support, we are able to provide our students with the best Catholic education possible.

**Calling all Alumni** – As we begin the New Year, St. Francis of Assisi School would like to offer its alumni four great ways to stay connected so that you can receive news about our school, alumni events, and alumni news. But, we need your help by updating your contact information by:

- Completing our on-line Alumni Update Form located on our school's website ([www.sfab.org/sfabschool](http://www.sfab.org/sfabschool));
- Joining us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/sfabraintree](http://www.facebook.com/sfabraintree)
- Sending your current contact information (name, address, city, state, zip, telephone, year of graduation) and email address as well as news about what you have been up to [alumni@sfab.org](mailto:alumni@sfab.org); or
- Contacting us at (781)-848-0842.

Help us spread the news to other SFA alumni and parents of alumni and we look forward to reconnecting with you. Thank you for staying in touch.

## Enroll Today

St. Francis of Assisi School offers a rolling admissions policy. For more information regarding our admissions procedure, simply visit our school's website ([www.sfab.org](http://www.sfab.org)) or contact us at (781) 848-0842. Are you interested learning more about what SFA has to offer for your child, its curriculum and extracurricular activities? Arrange your personalized visit/tour with our principal by contacting Brian Cote at (781) 848-0842 x12 or emailing [bcote@sfab.org](mailto:bcote@sfab.org). We look forward to possibly serving your family in the spiritual, academic, and social development of your child.



### A New Year's Prayer

Lord, You make all things new  
You bring hope alive in our hearts  
And cause our Spirits to be born again.

Thank you for this new year  
For all the potential it holds.

Come and kindle in us  
A mighty flame

So that in our time, many will see the wonders of God  
And live forever to praise Your glorious name.

Amen

*(A modern prayer for the New Year from [www.lords-prayer-words.com](http://www.lords-prayer-words.com))*

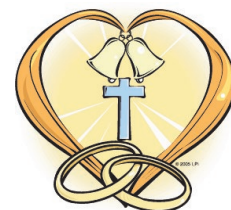
## GRAND ANNUAL UPDATE

As of Friday, December 22 our Grand Annual Collection was \$51,300 from 239 contributors (14% of Appeals sent). Thank you to all who have contributed. If you did not receive an Appeal letter or have misplaced your copy, please call the parish office at 781-843-1332 and we'll be happy to send you a new one.



*We welcome with joy into the family of the Church the following children who were baptized during the month of December, 2017:*

*Margot Olivia Fleming, Isla Marie Fournier,  
Nolan Chase Verity and Timothy Paul Lynch*



*Robert Joyce & Meghan Cotter III*

**December 31 ~ The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**—In today's Gospel, Simeon and Anna make a startling prediction about Jesus and the life that awaits him. Mary and Joseph hold in their hearts all that they hear and remain faithful to all that God has asked of them as parents. In celebrating this feast we pray that the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph will be a model of faithful love for all Christian families. Offer a prayer today that your entire family will be open to God's word.

### Share the Journey: Prayer Service

You are invited to the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse on Wednesday, January 10, 2018 to "Share the Journey" and join in prayer for **National Migration Week**. There will be prayer services at 12:00 noon and 7:00 p.m. at 637 Cambridge St., Brighton, MA. Learn more at [www.csjboston.org](http://www.csjboston.org)

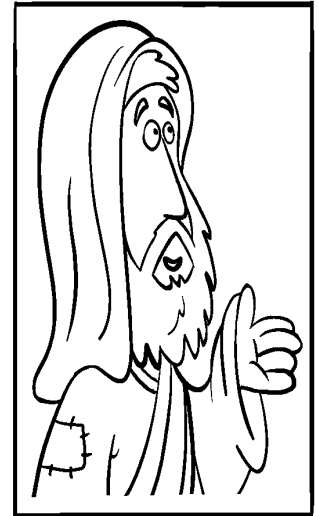
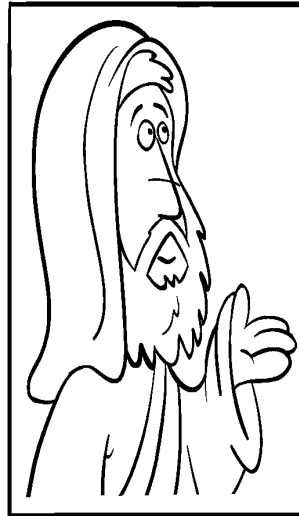
**Witness to Life Rally – Thursday, Jan. 18, 7:00 – 9:00PM** at St. Stephen parish in Framingham. All are invited to help launch the Witness to Life pilgrimage at a Rally with **Bishop Mark O'Connell**, the Catholic band Delmore, prayer and adoration, plus two dynamic pro-life speakers: Sarah Mary Toce (Director of the New England Life and Leadership Project) and Dr. Paul Gondreau, Professor of theology at Providence College, and father of Dominic Gondreau, the young boy with cerebral palsy who was embraced by Pope Francis on Easter Sunday, 2013. For more information on this free event, contact Margaret Wakelee at [mwakelee@rcab.org](mailto:mwakelee@rcab.org).

### Witness to Life Pilgrimage: January 18-20, 2018.

The Archdiocese of Boston Witness to Life pilgrimage to Washington, D.C. begins with a Witness to Life Rally on Thursday, January 18, 7:00PM at St. Stephen parish in Framingham. The Rally is open to all—even if you're not going on to the March for Life in D.C. Pilgrims will board the bus after the Rally and travel overnight to D.C. The \$180.00 pp/(quad occupancy) package includes transportation, hotel, meals, tours, and WTL apparel. Join Cardinal Seán O'Malley, and hundreds of others from RCAB Catholic schools and parishes as we march with thousands in our nation's capital to stand up for life. For more information, visit [bostoncatholic.org/witnesstolife](http://bostoncatholic.org/witnesstolife); or contact [witnesstolife@rcab.org](mailto:witnesstolife@rcab.org).

## Puzzle

Find 8 differences.



©LPI

### Sharing the Gospel

Love God and trust him with your life. Then you will want to do what God asks. Simeon listened to God. Anna served God for many years in the temple. Mary and Joseph did everything God asked them to do for Jesus. Everyone in the temple knew that Jesus was sent by God to be their Savior. They trusted God with Jesus' precious life.

### Prayer

God, help me to love you enough to do all that you ask me to.

### Something to Draw

Draw a picture of God watching over you and your family.

### Mission for the Week

Jesus belonged to God. Look up the word "belong" in the dictionary. Thank God that you are his child, too.

